

## CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A trampoline pad and trampoline comprising:
  - a. a pad body,
  - b. a plurality of strap pairs, each strap pair having an upper and lower strap attached to the pad body at a junction on the pad body,
  - c. a trampoline frame, having horizontal members and supporting members raising the frame above the ground,
  - d. a limiting member connecting each strap pair at a distance from the junction defining a pad strap gap as a predefined distance from the junction to the limiting member, wherein the pad strap gap is an elastic slack space sized according to the distance between the trampoline frame and the outer periphery of the trampoline pad body, wherein each strap pair can connect around the trampoline frame at a retaining connection, wherein the retaining connection retains the pair of straps around the trampoline frame, whereby the trampoline pad is connected to the trampoline frame with a slack space[.],
  - e. a trampoline bed mounted to the trampoline frame.
2. (currently amended) The trampoline pad and trampoline of claim 1 wherein a buckle is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.
3. (currently amended) The trampoline pad and trampoline of claim 1 wherein a knot is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.
4. (currently amended) The trampoline pad and trampoline of claim 1 wherein hook and loop tape is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.
5. (original) A trampoline comprising:
  - a. a trampoline frame, having horizontal members and supporting members raising the frame above the ground,
  - b. a trampoline bed mounted by springs on the horizontal members,
  - c. a pad body encircling and covering the springs, the pad body attached to the trampoline frame by straps attached to the pad body,
  - d. a plurality of strap pairs, each strap pair having an upper and lower strap attached to the pad body at a junction,

- e. a flange brace mounted on the junction between the horizontal members and supporting members.
6. (original) The trampoline of claim 5 further comprising: a plug weld formed through the plate welding the plate to the junction of the vertical and horizontal members of the trampoline frame.
  7. (original) The trampoline of claim 5 wherein the plug weld on the plate is positioned to attach the plate to the junction of the vertical and horizontal members.
  8. (original) The trampoline of claim 5 wherein the plate receives only a top weld along the top edge, and a bottom weld along the bottom edge and a plug weld.
  9. (original) A trampoline comprising:
    - a. a trampoline frame, having horizontal members and supporting members raising the frame above the ground,
    - b. a trampoline bed mounted by springs on the horizontal members,
    - c. a pad body encircling and covering the springs, the pad body attached to the trampoline frame by straps attached to the pad body,
    - d. a plurality of strap pairs, each strap pair having an upper and lower strap attached to the pad body at a junction,
    - e. a flange brace mounted on the junction between the horizontal members and supporting members,
    - f. a limiting member connecting each strap pair at a distance from the junction defining a pad strap gap as the distance from the junction to the limiting member, wherein the pad strap gap is a slack space sized according to the distance between the trampoline frame and the outer periphery of the trampoline pad body, wherein each strap pair can connect around the trampoline frame at a retaining connection, wherein the retaining connection retains the pair of straps around the trampoline frame, whereby the trampoline pad is connected to the trampoline frame with a slack space.
  10. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 further comprising: a plug weld formed through the plate welding the plate to the junction of the vertical and horizontal members of the trampoline frame.

11. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 wherein the plug weld on the plate is positioned to attach the plate to the junction of the vertical and horizontal members.
12. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 wherein the plate receives only a top weld along the top edge, and a bottom weld along the bottom edge and a plug weld.
13. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 wherein a buckle is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.
14. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 wherein a knot is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.
15. (original) The trampoline of claim 9 wherein hook and loop tape is the retaining connection used to allow connection of the straps to the frame.